



POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Department: NURSING	Division: IC	Policy:
Title: URINARY CATHETER DISCONTINUATION PROTOCOL	Developed: 2/2010	Supersedes:
Approved by:		Revised:

PURPOSE:

To provide course of action for the discontinuation of a urinary catheter.

DEFINITIONS:

A urinary catheter is a plastic tubing inserted into the patient’s bladder via their urethra, allowing the patient’s urine to flow freely from the bladder.

PROCEDURE:

All orders for urinary catheters are valid for 48 hours, unless otherwise specified.

At the completion of 48 hours, a discontinuation order will go automatically go into effect.

A patient meeting any of the 15 criteria listed below will require a physician’s order to discontinue urinary catheter.

Criteria for continuing/placing a urinary catheter:

1. To provide relief of urinary tract obstruction not manageable by other means.
2. To provide drainage of urine in patients with neurogenic bladder dysfunction and urinary retention not manageable by other means (i.e. intermittent catheterization).
3. To obtain accurate intake and output in critically ill patients, or when actively titrating diuretics.
4. To aid in urologic surgery or other surgery (as ordered by surgeon).
5. The foley catheter has been placed by the physician due to difficult insertion or for a special purpose.
6. The foley catheter has been ordered by a urologist.
7. To manage urinary incontinence in person with Stage III or IV pressure ulcers on coccyx.

Criteria excluding patients from the discontinuation of urinary catheter orders:

Patients with the following diagnoses or patient types are exempt from the discontinuation of urinary catheter orders:

1. Diseases or trauma of the urinary or neurological system requiring a permanent, indwelling catheter.
2. Patients with history of retention for whom intermittent catheterization would be inappropriate.
3. Urinary or prostate surgeries.
4. GYN surgical patients.
5. Critical Care patients for who measurement of hourly urine output is mandatory.
6. Patients with stage III or IV pressure ulcers, sacral, hip, buttock for which urinary incontinence would be deleterious to the healing of the wound.

7. Patient with patient controlled epidural anesthesia.
8. Colo-rectal surgeries.

